

2.1 Alkali Spring Valley (Basin 142)

The Alkali Spring Valley hydrographic basin encompasses a surface area of approximately 313 square miles in eastern Esmeralda County (County), of which a small portion extends into western Nye County. Goldfield is the largest population center in the basin. The State Engineer has estimated that a total of 3,000 AF of usable water is available in the basin as perennial yield. Based on figures provided by the DWR website's database, the total amount of water rights appropriated in the basin is about 2,596 AF/year. The County holds water rights for the majority of this water that amounts to approximately 1,973 AF/year, mostly associated with the supply of water to the community of Goldfield (Figures 2, 3 and 4).

Following is a list of all 18 water rights held by the County in the Alkali Spring Valley. Water rights with similar conditions or management elements may be grouped as appropriate.

<u>Water Right</u>	<u>Conditions or management elements worth noting:</u>
1. Permit 60963	The original cancellation and consequential change of the priority date associated with an earlier water right permit (#41861) separates this permit from that original base right. However, a water right priority for the duty documented on permit 41861 is retained via certificate 13195 at this same POD (Klondike #1). The Total Combined Duty (TCD) for water right permit 60963, permit 55627 and certificate 13195 is 300 AF/year. The duty for this permit is 300 AFA.
2. Certificate 13195	The PBU was filed 07-22-1980, at the same time as the Application. The POD is the same as for permit 60963, Klondike #1 well and was already in place. Work to be completed was for the water transmission main and booster stations to Goldfield. See permit 60963 for TCD. The duty for this certificate is 136.1 AFA.
3. Permit 55627	The POD for this water right permit is a well, designated Klondike #2. A PBU extension was filed 02-3-2007. PBU or another filed extension is due on 02-3-2008. See permit 60963 for TCD. The field reconnaissance surveyed a GPS instrument location for the POD (Klondike well #2) at 37° 52' 25" north Latitude by 117° 14' 54" west Longitude. It is significant that the DWR requires the POD associated with a water right to be tied to a quarter-quarter Section that is usually tied to a Section corner, detailed on the permit's application map. The GPS coordinates for this permit places the physical POD in the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 (NW- NE) of Section 10, T1S., R42E. The water right permit states the location as the NE corner of the NW (NE-NW) corner of Section 10. Survey bearings and distance values on all documentation including maps for this permit are correct and agree with the physical POD per the GPS coordinates and location, within the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of Section 10. Only the stated quarter-quarter Section information on the permit appears to erroneously place the POD one quarter-quarter Section to the west. The duty for this permit is 150 AFA.

<u>Water Right</u>	<u>Conditions or management elements worth noting:</u>
4. Certificate 5160	The Certificate's documented MOU is for stockwatering of "100-head of cattle". The POD is also recognized as an important monitoring well. The POD is very near (less than 100 feet) Highway 95. Ownership changed by deed in 1974 and was confirmed by DWR in 1983. The duty associated with this certificate is 2.39 AF/year.
Certificates 5. 2795 6. 6199 7. 6200 8. 6216 9. 6217 10. 6218 11. 6219 12. 6220 13. 6221 14. 6222 15. 6982	The DWR website expresses an interpretation of the paper records on file for these water rights as having a TCD of 25.72 AF/year. The interpretation is based on a letter from the Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners dated October 06, 1966. In the letter, the Chair of the Board states the daily, metered rate for the town of Goldfield as 22,560 gallons per day. This rate coincidentally approximates the website's TCD of 25.72 AF/year for all eleven certificates. Although the letter only references seven of the certificates, the website does reference all eleven water rights. The duties for each certificate is found in the table of Appendix A. The August 2006 reconnaissance was unable to confirm all of the surveyed POD locations identified on the application maps for the corresponding water rights. Those that were verified matched their documented bearings and distance locations within the recorded quarter-quarter Sections. The surveyed POD locations for these water rights, certificates 6982 (Popenberger), 6220 (Brewery), 6221 (Tripod), 2795 (Goldfield well #1), 6217 (Meyer) and 6199 (Damned If I Know) were not confirmed during the field reconnaissance and therefore not provided with GPS locations. These POD locations were estimated, based on the recorded permit application maps and added to the accompanying Goldfield vicinity map (Figure 3).
16. Certificate 6201	The DWR has requested the County commence keeping pumpage records at the POD (Shriver well) per NRS 534.110 paragraph 2. There is no documented duty identified on the water right's certificate, rather the "amount of appropriation" is a diversion rate of 2.0 cfs. The DWR website interprets this duty as a significant 1447.94 AF/year. The POD had once been changed from a location in Section 2 to the current POD in Section 3, T.3 S., R. 42 E.
17. Certificate 7670	The MOU identified for this water right is for irrigation, appurtenant to 40 acres of land in the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 34, T.2 S., R. 42 E. The surveyed POD, referred to locally as the "cemetery well", is in close proximity to the Slaughterhouse Spring.
18. Certificate 8754	The POD for this certificate is located at an improved spring site, also known as Duffy or Indian Springs (Figure 4). The spring site was not recorded with a GPS but confirmed per utility personnel and landmarks identified during the August 2006 reconnaissance. The MOU (municipal) requires conveyance of the water to the place of use (POU), in and about Goldfield, about 5.5 miles away.